

First Temple

586 B.C.



Rachel, right King Solomon built the Temple?

Right...

Why did he build it? What was his goal?

He built a place where the Jewish people could serve G-d. He had a dream, that the Temple would be a place of peace, like his name Shlomo. For this reason, when he inaugurated the Temple, he said a prayer that mentioned all non-Jewish nations, and said that they too will have a place in this House. Their prayers will also be happily accepted there.

Wow, I never thought about the fact that Shlomo-Solomon and Shalom have the same letters and hint at the same meaning. So the Temple is a place of peace?

The Temple is G-d's home, all of Israel will go there, as will all the other nations. They will bring offerings, pray, request things, and anyone who will come will be welcomed. Like Isaiah said in his prophecy: "For My House will be called a House of Prayer for all peoples"

You know, Dave, that until this very day, on certain festivals we mention Isaiah's prophecy, and this verse appears in our prayers, "I will bring them to my holy mountain, and will make them joyful in My House of Prayer... For My House will be called a House of Prayer for all peoples". Until today, the Jewish people aspires and prays for world peace and world redemption.

Wow Rachel, it's amazing that the same prayer that King Solomon prayed almost 3000 years ago is still said today. Such a simple prayer- that there should be a place where all feel at home, where anyone can pray to G-d in the simplest of ways.



Task:

Here are two piles of cards, one pile has flags and the second has the word "Hello" in different languages. You must match between the flags and the languages. If you match them correctly on the back of every pair you will find a drawing, which you can place on the timeline.

The Babylonian Exile

586-516 B.C.



You know what Rachel, it's interesting to think about how it felt to go into exile. I wonder how the people who went into exile felt.

There is a way to sort of know...

What? How?

In the book of Tehillim-Psalms, there are several chapters that describe how the people going into exile felt. For example, in chapter 137 it is written "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, there we wept, when we remembered Zion"

Wow Rachel! They were really sad, so much so that they simply sat down and cried because they remembered Jerusalem missed it.

Right, from the moment that the Jewish people went into exile, they missed Jerusalem tremendously, and cried about it being destroyed. But you know, they always looked to the future, always hoping and praying to return to Jerusalem and to live there once again.

How do you know that?

Because in a different chapter in Psalms-Tehillim, chapter 126, it is written, "A Song of Ascents. When G-d brought back those that returned to Zion, we were like dreamers. Then our mouth will be filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing." They are dreaming about returning to Zion, about the immense joy that they will experience when they will return to Jerusalem and will rebuild the city.

It's amazing that also when they are in exile, despite the intense sadness, there were able to dream about the future, and to hope to return to Jerusalem. Even cooler, is that after 2000 years we can know what they thought and how they felt.



Task:

Here are some verses written about the Babylonian exile, and cards with different emotions. You must choose the emotions that appear in the verse. Turn over the chosen cards, if you chose correctly you can put together a puzzle, which you can place on the timeline.

The Building of the Second Temple

516 B.C.



Rachel, you know, today I learned something in school that I didn't really understand.

What did you learn?

We learned that when the Second Temple was inaugurated, people both rejoiced and cried. Why? I thought that they dreamed about the rebuilding of the Temple, so why did they cry?

Ahhh, that's an excellent question. You know, when they built the Second Temple, after the exile, they didn't have a lot of money or resources so they built a relatively unimpressive Temple. It was certainly not grand like the First Temple. In the book of Ezra, we learn that there were people who remembered how the First Temple looked, and when they saw the Second Temple they were really sad because it was so much less impressive than the First.

But, you know what, that in exactly the same place, we learn that people were happy. "But many of the Priests and Levites and head of fathers' houses, the old men who had seen the First House, cried in a loud voice when seeing this House, and many shouted aloud for joy" It's true that the Second Temple was far less impressive, but, despite this, after 70 years of exile without a Temple, now they had a Temple.

So, they were sad that it wasn't impressive, but they were happy that they had a Temple.

Right, the happiness was greater than the sadness.



Task:

Which of these pictures looks the most like the description of the inauguration of the second temple according to the text? Choose it and place it on the timeline.

The Hasmoneans

167-37 B.C.



Dave, do you know that the Temple Menorah is?

Sure, it's the Hannukiyah that we light on Hannukah, right?

Mmm, almost. The Temple Menorah was a big, golden Menorah (candelabra) that stood in the Tabernacle-Mishkan, and later in the Temple

Oooh, so it was always there, but only on Hannukah they lit it?

No, the Priests would light the Menorah and take care of the candles every evening

Aaah, interesting. So why do we talk about the Menorah on Hannukah?

Because on Hannukah, a miracle happened involving the Menorah. After the Greeks defiled the Temple, there was no pure oil to be found in order to light the Menorah. The Greeks had poured out all the oil. But, then they found a small jar of oil that should have been enough to keep the Menorah alight for just one day. But a miracle happened and the oil lasted for eight whole days!

Riiiiight! I remember now! The miracle of the jar of oil!

You know, Dave, the Temple Menorah became one of the symbols of the Jewish people and it features in the center of the official emblem of the State of Israel.

Cool! Where is the real Menorah today?

After the destruction of the Second Temple, the Menorah disappeared, and until today, we don't know what happened to it. A number of years ago, they replicated the Temple Menorah in Jerusalem- made a copy of it- and placed it in the center of the Old City so that everyone can see it and remember the Menorah.



Task:

On the cards you will find sentences that are true or false. Choose the ones you think are true, turn them over and put together the puzzle. After that place the puzzle in the correct space in the timeline.

The Period of Herod

37-4 B.C.



You know Rachel, from all the pictures that I've even seen of the Temple, it looks like it was big and beautiful. I remember you saying that when they built it, it was pretty small and unimpressive. So how can you explain that?

Ahhhh, all the pictures that you saw show the Temple after Herod carried out restorations?

After what?

Towards the end of the Second Temple period, a Roman king called Herod ruled. Herod enlarged and renovated the Temple plaza, and the Temple itself.

Oooh, that must have been what confused me

Yes, you're right. The Temple that we recognize from the pictures is really beautiful and impressive. The Temple that Herod built was so beautiful that the Sages said, "whoever has not seen Herod's building, has not seen a beautiful building in his life"

Herod enlarged the plaza that the Temple stood on, so that many more people and buildings could fit into it. When the people would ascend to Jerusalem on festivals, with all of the Jewish people coming, there was room for everyone.



Task:

Before you are the instructions that the head architect received from king Herod, and the parts of the building. You must build the second Beit Hamikdash on the timeline, according to the instructions.

Destruction of the Second Temple

70 A.D.



Rachel, what is a Sir Tamim (Hebrew for complete pot)?

Sir Tamim is a pot that is found in its entirety in an archeological dig. Usually, potsherds are found and pieced together in order to make up a pot or some other vessel. But if an unbroken pot is found, it's called a Sir Tamim. Why do you ask?

I saw a picture of a pot and it was written that it was a Sir Tamim found in a drainage channel from the Second Temple period. Why was a pot in the drainage channel? It's a little weird, no?

It is really weird, you're right. Our teacher told us that story. At the end of the Second Temple period, there was a war in Jerusalem. The Romans destroyed the Temple, and the Jews tried to flee. Some of the Jews fled from Jerusalem, and others didn't succeed so they looked for places to hide in. The drainage channels ran under the city and were meant to drain the rainwater from the city. Jewish people tried to hide there in order to survive. They therefore took pots filled with food with them.

Wow! Did they manage to live there? Did they succeed in escaping?

Sadly, most of them didn't succeed in running away. Roman arrow heads were also discovered in the drainage channels. The Romans discovered the Jews hiding out under the streets, broke the sidewalks, entered the drainage channels and caught the Jews there.

Oi, that's really awful and sad! What did they do with the Jews?

All of the Jews who remained until the end of the war were exiled.

What a sad end to the Second Temple period.



Task:

Before you is a puzzle of a pot, an archeological artifact from the second temple. Put the puzzle together, turn it over, and place the picture of the temple on the timeline.

Going into Exile

70-135 A.D.



You know, Rachel, after you told me about the destruction of the Temple, and about the Jewish people going into exile, it made me really sad

It really is a very sad story

Right, can you tell me a little about what happened to the Jewish people when they exiled them?

Sure, I can tell you what I know

How is it that you know about these things?

We have archaeological and historical evidence. For example -going into exile- the Romans left us a very well-known and famous archaeological piece of evidence. Have you heard of the Arch of Titus?

No, what is it?

It is a very large gate found in Rome. When the Romans ruled and they would win a battle, they'd build a big gate called a triumphal arch on which they'd engrave the biggest victories of the battle. So on the Arch of Titus they engraved the victory of the Romans over the Jews. The most famous picture on the Arch is of right after the destruction of the Temple when the Romans took the Temple vessels as a sign of their victory. Among the vessels that can be seen in the picture is the Temple Menorah.

The Temple Menorah?? They took it??

Yes, they took it and commemorated doing so by engraving it on the gate. In this way, the Arch became a sad symbol of the destruction, of the exile of the Jewish people that lasted 2000 years. Actually, it was only in recent years that the State of Israel was established, the Jewish people returned from exile to the land of Israel and Jerusalem. You know that the Menorah became the emblem of the State of Israel?

What does that mean?

It means that on the identification card of the State of Israel, the Temple Menorah appears. Every place that shows the official emblem of the State of Israel shows the Temple Menorah. In this way, the Menorah was transformed from a symbol of destruction and exile, to a symbol of the return of the Jewish people to its land and the building of the Jewish State.

Wow! What a special ending to the story. Despite the fact that the Menorah wasn't found and we don't know where it is, it essentially came back home to the State of Israel in a different form- as the emblem of the State.



Task:

On an Israeli ID appears the Menorah of Beit Hamikdash, the same one that appears on the Arch of Titus. Fold the big group ID and place it, and the Menorah that is on it, in the correct place on the arch that appears on the timeline

Jerusalem of Today

1948 Today



Wow, so Rachel, until this very day Jerusalem sits desolate? The Jewish people are wandering around the world in exile? It's so sad.

No, no, Dave! That's not the end of the story. The story of the Jewish people didn't end in exile.

Really?? So they returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the Temple?! Amazing!!

No, not quite...

So I'm confused...

The Jewish people returned to Jerusalem, they set up a Jewish country that is called the State of Israel and Jerusalem is the capital city. They haven't yet built the Temple, but they pray for this every day in their prayers. Even the Jews not living in Israel pray for this daily.

Aaah, so it's a half-good ending

It's not the end, it's just the beginning of the life of the Jewish people in the land of Israel. You know that in the book of Zecharia there is a prophecy of comfort that describes what will happen to the Jewish people, years after the destruction of the Temple?

Yeah? What is written there?

"So said G-d: Elderly men and women will sit in the streets of Jerusalem; each man with his stick in his hand due to old age. And the streets of the city will be full of boys and girls, playing in the streets." This prophecy is being fulfilled in our days as the city of Jerusalem is full of Jewish people who live there, children play in the streets and elderly people walk the streets.

Wow! So actually, despite there not yet being a Temple, we are already experiencing the redemption. That is amazing. The fact that elderly people and children are walking around Jerusalem is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Zecharia. So Rachel...when are we going to travel to Jerusalem?

Task:

Before you are post cards depicting different events that occurred in Jerusalem from the establishment of the state until today. Choose your favorite card, draw yourself on it, write your name, your thoughts, or any message you would like to share. Then place your cards around the sign of "I love JLM" on the timeline.